

REMARKS

Applicant recognizes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 10 – 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended Claims 1, 5 and 11. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include the allowable features of Claim 10. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form according to the Examiner's suggestion. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 – 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bush, Jr. (US 6,486,899), hereinafter Bush.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include the features of Claim 10, which is indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Due to their dependency, Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 also include these allowable features. Thus, Claims 1 – 9 are allowable.

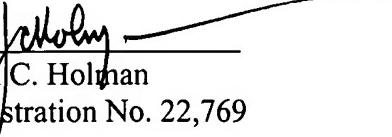
Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by the Bush reference and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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